

## **Education Questions for Jason:**

- I don't understand all of these tests. Some are state, some federal. The establishment says Mississippi schools are doing better but I don't trust them. Are we doing better? What is the most reliable measuring stick? What stat is the most damning of our schools? We need to define the problem and a bad stat would do it.
- What is the year-to-year change in total spending on K-12 over the last 10 years vs. year-to-year change in total number of students? What percentage of Mississippi's total budget goes to K-12? The 65% figure includes IHL and CCs doesn't it?
- Do we know how to compare Mississippi's "administrative costs" (excluding SDE) to other states? Can we do it district-by-district? Can we compare our SDE expenditures to other states?
- If the teacher pay raise is funded and there are not any new schools being built, what exactly is all of the new money going to be used for in the schools' budget request?
- I noticed our per pupil expenditure is around \$4,000. How does that compare to surrounding states?
- Where do these figures come from that the Governor has quoted comparing district spending to performance? Are those figures reliable? What are the holes in them?
- What does the establishment mean when they say that they don't even have enough money to meet the new federal standards? What are those costs?
- Even some of the opposition in the Legislature says there are problems with the MAEP formula. What are

the problems and do we think a real attempt will be made to touch MAEP?

- Can we pinpoint increases in non-teacher pay (administrators) at schools? In other words, in a time of budget crisis are administrators getting raises?
- I hear you and Jim say there needs to be “transparency” in school budgets. What is not transparent? Isn’t it all public information?
- Is there anyway to review districts that have tapped their reserve funds? Is there anyway to review how many local governments “raised local taxes for schools.”
- Is there anyway to quantify that teachers are mandated to do too much paperwork. (During Fordice we filled-up a wheelbarrow with required teacher forms to demonstrate.)
- Can we verify the Edison anecdote: \$4000 per student - \$1200 per for teacher salary - \$800 per for facilities = \$2000 for ????? (or something like that)?
- If we significantly scaled-down the SDE, how much of that money could go to schools? (i.e. 50% reduction would mean \$\_\_ million to divide between 152 school districts.
- What other ways can we pit local administrators against the SDE? If our plan is to push local innovation, should we consider having a meeting with the superintendents to get their thoughts?

